



# Evesham Township School District

Meland Administration Building, 25 South Maple Avenue, Marlton, NJ 08053

[www.evesham.k12.nj.us](http://www.evesham.k12.nj.us) · (856) 983-1800 · Fax # (856) 983-2939

Dr. Justin Smith, Superintendent

Mr. John Recchinti, School Business Administrator  
Mr. Richard G. Dantine, Jr., Director of Personnel

Ms. Danielle T. Magulick, Director of Curriculum & Instruction  
Dr. Jennifer Bland, Director of Special Services

April 28, 2023

Dear ETSD Staff and Families,

Highlights: Final Budget Presentation, April 28 BOE meeting; Superintendent Comments from April 28 BOE meeting.

“Prepare the child for the road, not the road for the child.”

– Unknown

“Be Kind. Be Very Kind.”

– T-Shirt worn by an ETSD student

“Kindness Is Power”

– T shirt worn by an ETSD student

**POSTPONED DUE TO RAIN, NEW DATE TBD: [Autism Awareness Color Run and Sensory Walk](#)**

**May 2: [All in Disability Awareness Event](#)**

**May 5 deadline: ["All In" Disabilities Awareness Poster Contest 2023](#)**

**(Let's do this! Last year, over 50% of all poster contest submissions statewide were from ETSD. Powerful data. Thank you students, teachers, families!)**

**May 19, 20, 26, 27: [Cherokee's "The Addams Family!"](#)**

**June 5: [EEF Larry Kull Memorial Golf Classic](#)**

**June 27: [ETSD ECC Hiring Event](#)**

## **Final Budget Presentation, April 28 BOE meeting**

Our Board of Education approved our 2023-24 final budget last evening. I would encourage everyone to view last night's budget presentation, which runs from about 1:30:20 to 2:36:30 in the video linked here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqkftEqZ\\_KE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqkftEqZ_KE)

The presentation powerpoint is available on our [website](#) and is best understood by watching the presentation via the youtube link above.



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## Superintendent Comments from April 28 BOE meeting

I'd like to devote my comments this evening to an important and positive topic, which is the growing and evolving diversity of our town and district. Last night was the [Multicultural Celebration](#) at DeMasi for the DeMasi, Beeler, and Van Zant School communities. This incredible event gets bigger and more amazing each year. I'd like to give a special shout to teachers Rob Fox and Sara Smith for their leadership in organizing it, and to all the DMS staff, administration, teachers, as well as the staff of Beeler and VZ, who played roles in making it happen and attended in support. And thank you to our families and students, who danced and performed in the gym, ran a game in the small gym, hosted fun educational and interactive tables in this very cafeteria, and prepared and served amazing food. The energy, the excitement throughout, was palpable and powerful. Everyone celebrating each other's differences and backgrounds, all together as a larger family of schools and district. The diversity of our district is growing and evolving. Last Friday the festival called Eid al-Fitr ("Eed al fitter"), which literally means Breaking of the Fast, took place around the world and in homes in Evesham, marking the end of Ramadan, the most religious month in the Islamic calendar. It's a joyous occasion when Muslims attend prayers in the morning, visit with loved ones and neighbors, and enjoy a delicious traditional feast with friends and family.

Acknowledging different cultural celebrations is important, especially in classrooms and schools where many ethnicities come together every day. It helps all of our students feel seen, heard, and supported. And as part of that responsibility, our district plans to explore possibly recognizing other key holidays in our 2024-25 district calendar. This begins by trying to wrap our arms around our whole district, to gather in perspectives. We will use our Back to School forms this August to seek input from our staff and families about what holidays they celebrate that they would like to see in our calendar, but are not currently included. We will use this information, as well as other means, such as researching other districts' approaches, to consider additions for 2024-25. We develop each coming year's calendar during the winter and typically use our February Board meeting for that calendar's first reading. We will make every effort to keep the school year from getting longer. At the same time, as with all our decisions and processes, we weigh pros and cons on the many armed scale, to determine the best path forward. And the pros of a district calendar updated to reflect and embrace our community of families today is of vital importance to the success of our students today and for all tomorrows to come. I would like to thank everyone, parents, staff, and students, who have reached out to me about the possibility of adding particular holidays to our calendar. All voices matter. Your voices matter.



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## Opportunities and Resources

- [https://www.evesham.k12.nj.us/community/community\\_activities](https://www.evesham.k12.nj.us/community/community_activities)
- <https://www.booksmiles.org/> (local resource)
- **May 2:** [All in Disability Awareness Event](#)
- **June 5:** [EEF Larry Kull Memorial Golf Classic](#)
- **June 15:** 8th Grade Graduation, DMS 5:30 pm, MMS 7:30 pm, Cherokee Performing Arts Center

Sincerely,

Dr. Justin Smith  
Superintendent of Schools